

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

- 1) Applicants respectfully request that the term of response to the Office action be extended two months pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136 by payment of the required fee (attached by the duplicate copy of a deposit account fee sheet authorization).
- 2) Election of inventions/ election of species:

The amended set of claims comprises only one independent claim (new claim 29), which renders moot the election requirement.

New independent claim 29 substantially corresponds to the merging of initial claims 3 and 21, with the omission of “a dialyzer blood compartment”. Thus, Applicants are currently pursuing claims directed to an extracorporeal circuit without traverse of the restriction requirement. Applicants reserve the right to file divisional applications.

New dependant claim 30 connects a dialyzer to the extracorporeal circuit of claim 29.

Initial claims 4 and 6 to 20, which are directly or indirectly dependent on claim 29, have been amended so as to be directed to an extracorporeal circuit (and no longer a switch valve).

Initial claims 22, 23 have been amended so as to be properly attached to the new claim 29, which does not recite a “dialyzer blood compartment”.

Claims 1 to 3, 5, 21, and 24 to 28 are cancelled.

Appl. No. 10/788,787

Amdt. dated Sept. 11, 2006

Reply to Office action dated Jun. 29, 2006

All of the objections/rejections presented in the Office Action of June 29, 2006, have hereby been fully obviated/traversed, and can thus be withdrawn. If there are any questions, or if prosecution can be expedited in any manner by a telephonic conference, the Examiner is urged to call the undersigned at the below-printed telephone number

It is also believed that no other fee than identified in paragraph 1 above are due in connection with the filing of this response, but if any are determined to be required, Applicants hereby provide authorization to charge deposit account number 03-2316 for such fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated



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